

**Cape's Dune Poet
Takes Daily Dip**

ALTHOUGH he is seventy-one years of age, Cape Cod's "Dune Poet," Harry Kemp, takes a daily dip in the briny waters of the Cape every day in the year. Yes, even on the snappiest, cuttingest winter days, Harry never flinches but fearlessly and happily defies winter's keen tooth. His poems, excellent in style and thoughtful in content, frequently appear in the Cape Cod newspapers.

JANUARY 5, 1956

**'55 Brings Honors
To Poet Of Dunes**

1955 will be remembered by Dune Poet Harry Kemp as the year in which his adopted and beloved Provincetown joined as a community to express appreciation for his untiring efforts in presenting the rich historical heritage of the town. In addition to messages of praise from high national and state officials, Mary Heaton Vorse, author and journalist presented the Dune Poet with a scroll signed by fellow townspeople. This is soon to be lettered by an artist and put in a permanent place in Town Hall. It was signed by the following:

The Rev. H.H.M. Nicholas, St. Mary of the Harbor; the Rev. and Mrs. Arthur O. Dewey, Methodist; the Rev. Francis M. Coady, Church of St. Peter the Apostle; Augustus Keane, superintendent of schools, and Mrs. Keane; Mr. and Mrs. Fred Rogers, Provincetown Civic Association; Mr. and Mrs. Carl Murchison, Camp Fire Girls; Mr. and Mrs. Ralph Carpenter, John C. Van Arsdale, Mr. and Mrs. Paul Lambert, Mrs. Thomas Cote, president, Catholic Daughters of America; Mr. and Mrs. Lauren Cook, Yacht and Tennis Club.

Also, Mr. and Mrs. William Roche, Veterans Memorial School; Captain and Mrs. Albert Avellar Jr., Mrs. Helen Bishop Dennis, Clarence Curley, Arthur Bickers, Mr. and Mrs. Neil Nickerson, Mr.

and Mrs. Gustav Aust, Mr. and Mrs. John Gregory, Mr. and Mrs. Carl Black, Mrs. Mayme Claxton, Mrs. Norma Scafford, Captain and Mrs. Charles Mayo Jr., Mr. and Mrs. Charles Mayo, Mr. and Mrs. Frank Guthro, Menalkas Duncan, Mr. and Mrs. Chester Pfeiffer, Mrs. Ted Robinson, Mr. and Mrs. William Mayo and Mr. and Mrs. William H. Strachen.

Others included Mrs. James Thomas, Mrs. Madeleine Jackson, Mrs. Mary Bicknell, Alice King, Mrs. Marjorie Oliver, Mr. and Mrs. George Yater, Joseph Akers, M.S. Osworth, Mrs. Laura Stegner, Mr. and Mrs. Richard Gerould, Mr. and Mrs. Ernest Gebelein, Miss Marjorie Seaver, Mrs. Frank Shay, Mr. and Mrs. Chauncey Hackett, Mr. and Mrs. Irving T. McDonald, Dr. and Mrs. Robert S. Clark, Dr. and Mrs. Eben Given, Truro; Dr. E.A. Pratt, Truro; Mrs. Robert Whelan, Jack Hall, Wellfleet; Mr. and Mrs. Anthony P. Tarvers, Miss Flora Peters, Mr. and Mrs. William Silva, Mr. and Mrs. Joseph Macara.

Also, Dr. and Mrs. Daniel H. Hiebert, Morris Light Post, American Legion; Mrs. Ethel White, president, Legion Auxiliary; Manuel J. Lewis, commander, Lewis A. Young Post, VFW; Mrs. Flora Corea, president, VFW Auxiliary; Town Manager James V. Coyne Jr., Selectmen Francis A. Santos, Frank Henderson, Joseph Ferreira, Joseph Lema Jr., and Clarence Kacergis; John C. Snow, president, Chamber of Commerce; Mr. and Mrs. Horace F. Hallett, Civil Defense director, president, Cape Cod Pilgrim Memorial Association.

Also, James Daugherty, Mrs. Alice Cook, Mrs. Helen Davis, president, P-TA; Mr. and Mrs. Henry Helmer, Mrs. Eleanor B. Rowland, Mrs. Lionel Medeiros, St. Mary's Guild and members; Mrs. Althea Gilmore, Provincetown Symphony Society; Joseph Bent, Walter Welsh Council, K. of C.; Manuel Dutra, Fisherman's Association; Manuel Zora, Mrs. Ernest Saunders, Research Society, and members, Mr. and Mrs. Reeves Euler, Art Association, and Mr. and Mrs. Salvatore Del Deo, Beachcombers Club and members.

February 9, 1956

IN CONNECTION WITH the excellent story of the building of Mayflower II, elsewhere in this issue of The Advocate, it is interesting to learn that a chip from a timber being hewn for this authentic replica of the famous Pilgrim vessel has been sent to Dune Poet Harry Kemp from England. He received the sliver in a letter from Dorothy Byers, Brockton radio personality. It came from the Brixham shipyards where the new Mayflower is now being constructed. The Poet of the Dunes already has, in a safe-deposit box in the vaults of the First National Bank, a chip of oak taken from one of the timbers of the original Mayflower and he regards this as might a devout the relic of a saint.

- February 25, 1960 -

LETTERS BY our Dune Poet, Harry Kemp are a part of a book, "My Lifetime in Letters" being published by the University of Missouri Press, consisting of letters from famous people to Upton Sinclair, now 80, and once the most controversial writer in modern times, who wrote "The Jungle," "The Brass Check," and "The Goose-Step," among other novels. Harry and the novelist were once very close friends, so much so that our poet set the country and beyond, back on its haunches when he ran away with Mr. Sinclair's first wife, intent upon proving the advantages of free love over marriage. When the husband saw that he could not stop the pair, he presented them with a coffee pot from which, he said, they were forever guzzling coffee. And, Harry says, they took it along with them to a place on the Jersey shore. That was many, many years ago and now Harry's letters are prominent in this new book. Harry expects a small sum in the royalties and he plans to use it in publishing a new brochure of Provincetown rhymes.

THURSDAY, MARCH 17, 1960

OVER THE LAST WEEKEND a number of unidentified pre-school children, apparently with little else to do and beyond the reach of parental discipline, broke into, damaged and defaced with paints a cottage being built for Harry Kemp. "Sunny" Tasha, who has spent a tremendous amount of time and energy on the project, was, needless to say, shocked and mystified at their behavior and apparent disregard for other people's property. All she can do now is replace broken windows, perhaps even entire window units, since much of the material destroyed or damaged cannot be replaced. The stained glass windows, for instance, in the cottage, were once part of a church that once stood on the present site of the First National Bank.

(The Centenary Church)

**BEN AND WILL LEAVE EACH
THEIR NAMES IN A VOLUME
OF FLORIO'S MONTAIGNE**

(The folio is now preserved in the British Museum)



That Montaigne was a wise man we'll avouch,
Ben and myself: for often sped the hour
That clothed our fancies in his gentle power,
We gave our wits up to his gentle touch.
At Court, too, from grave Cecil to Lord Zouch
Florio's Montaigne was read. In the Queen's bower
The wisdom fetched from life, the good account,
Lessened e'en Majesty.

Lord of the Mount,
You waxed a-new in bourgeoned English phrase
Through our John Florio's neb; our Florio,
Who at the Mermaid joined our merry ways,
With good talk and the Landlord's Best for lure! . . .
So Ben and I inscribed your folio
Each with a fond, attesting signature!

Harry Kemp